IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an encoder, the encoder to compress a plurality of signals at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual signal quality.

9. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a decoder; and

to decompress a plurality of compressed signals at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual signal quality.

14. (Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

receive a plurality of signals from a first transmission device;

encode the plurality of signals in a compressed format; and

transmit the plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the signals.

20. (Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

receive the plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the signals;

decode the plurality of compressed signals; and

transmit the decoded signals to a first receiving device.

26. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals from a transmission device;

encoding the plurality of signals in a compressed format; and

transmitting the plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the signals.

33. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals in a compressed format through a transmission medium at variable frame rates based on a plurality of prioritized parameters to reduce signal bandwidth while preserving perceptual quality of the plurality of the signals;

decoding the plurality of compressed signals; and

transmitting the decoded signals to a receiving device.

IN THE ABSTRACT

At page 56, line 3, after the word "variable", please insert the word --frame--.